

# JUDGE SWANN SEES PERIL IN TOO MUCH PRISON REFORM

## Points Out Dangers in Present Tendency to Soften Rigors of Punishment...Misdirected Sympathy Works More Harm Than Good, He Thinks



offer to employ a convicted man for the purpose of getting the trial Judge to suspend sentence. These people have often been known to make an application by appeals from the family of the criminal or from personal friends of both. Often such a person is the grocer, butcher or other tradesman in the neighborhood where the convicted man has purchased household goods. In too many cases, when the Judge suspends sentence, the tradesman gives the convicted man employment and thus removes the sting from the sentence, and the criminal keeps his faith with the court and then discharges him.

"2. With a limited but very real sympathy for the criminal, the Judge and discretion in order to see that the criminal is not imposed upon. People of this class come into court and offer to give money to the convict if the court will suspend sentence. They are not to be taken for criminals for the simple purpose of getting him to work for less than he is worth. Of course this kind of employer will hang on to his man as long as he is possibly can.

"3. The Judge requires the officer, Mr. Kimball, a man of large experience and calm judgment, has furnished me with his opinion in this very important matter—the ease with which a man can be made to work for less than his worth, and the great difficulty of finding employment, and the great difficulty often experienced by another man who needs work but as seriously, but who happens to be an honest man without criminal record. Mr. Kimball has said that the majority of convicts of New York city there exists generally an abhorrence of crime and criminality, but when specific cases are brought to the attention of this business man of that, criminals are classed as victims of misfortune and accident.

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Thus, the Following Is Possible:—***